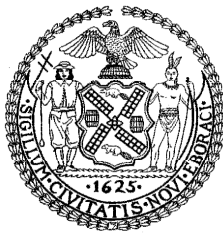


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8
Youth & Education Committee Meeting
NY Blood Center, 310 East 67 Street, Conference Room
Monday, June 11, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Community Board Members (Present): Sarah Chu, Jim Clynes, Ed Hartzog, Hattie Quarnstrom, Judy Schneider, M. Barry Schneider, Debbie Teitelbaum

Community Board Members (Excused): Lori Bores, Deidre Breslin, George Fuchs, Lorraine Johnson,

Community Board Public Members: Sophia James

Community Board Public Members (Excused): Michael Hoffman

A. Introductions

B. Park Avenue Armory Presentation on art programs for Community District 8 Schools

Cassidy Jones, Education Director of the Park Avenue Armory, made the following presentation on the Park Avenue Armory's free educational programs:

- Production-based programming, which provides workshops around each artistic program held in the drill hall.

The uniqueness of the production-based programming is that they use teaching artists from one form to assist in the understanding of another, as they may look at a work of visual art, but be asked to respond to it using dance. They use 10 teaching artists in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and the moving image.

The Young People's Shakespeare program had over 800 Out-of-school (OST) students and featured 12 live performances of *Hamlet* and *The Comedy of Errors*, which were specially edited for the younger audience. Each group that attended had 3 sessions of programming, which consisted of a teaching artist led pre-visit at the OST site which focused on introducing the students to Shakespeare and his language, and on-site mini workshop before the performance, Q & A with the artists, and a teaching artist post-show visit back at their site. This program was so successful the company will be returning to the Armory the last 2 weeks of November with *King Lear*. The Armory also plans to provide support to the teachers in the classroom to use this resource.

"Tom Sachs Space Program: Mars" gave the Armory the opportunity to host first graders from PS 183 and 4th graders from PS 198 on a trip to Mars!

- Partnership school programs, which offer ongoing, sustained engagements with specific schools.
- Armory Youth Corps program, which is a paid internship for underserved NYC public school students.

C. Whitney Museum Presentation on programs for Community District 8 Schools

Ai Wee Seow, Coordinator of School & Education Programs, started her presentation with the comment that the museum's focus is on the Artist:

- Free Guided Visits are done over a 3 to 5 week period with the same educator for the students. There is a pre-visit in the school, the museum visit, and a post-visit at the school. The educator helps each child to interpret the art in their own way. When a group of high school math students came to view the Smith Exhibit it was from a totally different perspective than that of the elementary school children.

The museum is undergoing renovations with the sale of the brownstones, so they were finally able to build a temporary studio with Containers on the ground floor. This allows for 25 students, tables and chairs where the students can work and classes can be held. The students can do art projects after viewing the exhibit.

All programs happen when the museum is closed. The feedback is that the students feel like VIP's and they are not distracted.

- The museum also has the following Programs for teachers:
 - Professional Development Workshop. This has a charge of \$200 for a 2 hour class. It will help train the teacher in how to start a conversation and engage their students in art.
 - Teachers Exchange. The museum takes applications for this program in September and the course is paid for by the museum. The teachers come once a month for 9 months when the museum is closed. They talk about art and how to make it work with all disciplines and for all the age levels—elementary, middle and high school.
- Go to: whitney.org/education to see all the programs available to families and children—tours, art making, design, chit chat, the artist as a story teller-social and political comments. Some of these programs charge a fee. You can sign up on the website.

The committee chairs said they would reach out to the principals of the district schools to try to establish contacts for the Museum and the Armory.

D. Update on 2nd teacher/aide in the classroom

As of this meeting there is nothing to report.

(However, after the meeting we learning that Councilmember Garodnick's Office confirmed with Elizabeth Rose, Chief of Staff office of Public affairs-DOE, that the current agreement for this year will be extended for the next school year starting in September. We wish to thank Council Member Garodnick for his help on this issue.)

E. Re-zoning

- The Department of Education (DOE) held a meeting for the new PS 281 School, which will be located on the former Con Ed site at First Avenue and 35th Street. In September they will be proposing to the Community Education Council District 2 (CECD2) a zone for this new school. At the same time there will be proposing a change in the zoning for PS 59 and PS 267.
- PS 59 (which was located on 63rd Street) had a waitlist for the September 2012 and was forced to add one new kindergarten class. The new school will also accommodate District 75 students. The new school will be filled to capacity and as a result the DOE had to withdraw the Pre-K classes that were going to be offered at this school.
- PS 267, which had been located at PS 158 temporarily, will be moving to their permanent home on 63rd Street in September. This school was formed and then a zone was created for it, rather than doing the re-zoning first. As a result it appears that the zone is not big enough. As of this meeting, there are only 50 students signed up to attend in September, when the school can actually accommodate 3 Kindergarten sections. They may even lose some of those students to Gifted & Talented, moving etc. Therefore, the DOE is going to propose an increase in the size of the zone in their September presentation to the CECD2. PS 267 will also have a morning and afternoon Pre-K, as the school does not yet go all the way up to 5th grade at this time, resulting in vacant class rooms in the building.

F. Future Meeting Dates

- July and August: We will not meet
- September 10: Next meeting

G. Old /New business

- Helen Ohw, aid to Assemblymember Kellner spoke about the possibility of the vacant space at PS 158 being used for a Charter school, while the community has unanimously come out and spoken with one voice that they want a middle school. She handed out flyers/letters to Chancellor Walcott, for the community to fill out and turn in, which supported this view. The committee will continue to follow this issue in the fall with the DOE and the CECD2.

She also spoke about the Summer Reading Challenge, which Assembly Member Kellner is participating in with the NY State Assembly.

- Peggy Salwen, the children's librarian at the 67th Street Branch, spoke about the library's summer reading program. For the first time you can sign up for it on line at: www.summerreading.org and if you do not have a computer it can be done at the library.

She also spoke about Dream Big/Imagination Academy 2012 this summer for amazing free, week-long programs, all about helping you create your own book (for children aged 9-12).

Session 1: 6/19 to 6/22 Focus: Fiction and Short Stories

Session 2: 7/10 to 7/13 Focus: Poetry

Session 3: 7/17 to 7/20 Focus: Graphic Novels

Session 4: 7/31 to 8/03 Focus: Fiction & Short Stories

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Judith Schneider and James Clynes
Co-Chairs, Youth and Education Committee